

REMARKS

Claims 1-39 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 14, 18, 19, 33, and 34 are finally rejected. Claims 2-13, 15-17, and 20-32, are withdrawn.

The Withdrawn Claims

Claims 2-13, 15-17, 20-32, and 35-39 have been withdrawn pursuant to a restriction requirement. Claims 1 and 33 are generic. It is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is allowable for the reasons expressed below. Accordingly, rejoinder and examination on the merits of the withdrawn claims are respectfully requested.

The Amendment to the Specification

The specification is amended herein to more clearly identify MACBETH COLOREYE and BYK Gardner as trademarks.

The Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1, 14, 18, 19 33 and 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No.6,013,792 (hereinafter, "Tsujiimoto et al.") in view of WO 96/16110 (hereinafter, "Karrer"). Tsujiimoto is directed to elastomer compositions and is cited for disclosing linear organohydrogensiloxanes and hindered amine light stabilizer additive. Karrer is cited for disclosing sterically hindered amines with a pendant siloxane chain. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The invention herein comprises a composition including an elastomeric component admixed with a light stabilizer. The elastomeric component is a polyorganosiloxane without alternating cyclic hydrocarbon residues. The hindered amine light stabilizer (HALS) includes a pendant siloxane chain.

Tsujimoto et al. is directed to elastomer compositions and processes for producing them. Tsujimoto et al. discloses that hindered amine light stabilizers can be added to the composition, but does not disclose a HALS containing a pendant siloxane chain. Karrer discloses a HALS containing a pendant siloxane chain, but does not disclose the polyorganosiloxane elastomer component.

More particularly, Tsujimoto et al. discloses a composition comprising:

- (a) an ethylene-alpha-olefin unconjugated diene copolymer rubber as a dispersed phase;
- (b) a silicon type crosslinking agent;
- (c) a hydrosilation catalyst; and
- (d) a thermoplastic resin continuous phase containing grafted hydrolysable silane groups. The disclosed hydrolysable silane groups are alkoxysilanes.

The resins in Tsujimoto et al. differ in fundamental respects from the polyorganosiloxanes of the present invention. Component (a) does not contain silicon. Although component (d) contains silane groups, in contrast to the polyorganosiloxanes of the invention, the silane groups of component (d) are grafted pendant groups, and are not part of the main polymer chain. Moreover the pendant silane groups are required to be hydrolysable because the

Tsujimoto et al. composition is intended to be moisture curable. In contrast to this, the composition of the present invention is heat curable.

These differences are further highlighted in claims 14 and 18.

Claim 14 depends from claim 1 and further recites that the polyorganosiloxane is a reaction product of a non-cyclic vinylsiloxane fluid and an organohydrogensiloxane crosslinker.

Claim 18 depends from claim 14 and further defines the vinylsilane fluid. As can be seen, the vinylsiloxane does not include alkoxy groups, whereas the grafted hydrolyzable silane groups of Tsujimoto et al. do contain alkoxy group (ethoxy and methoxy) to provide hydrolyzability. The composition of Tsujimoto is water-cured, whereas the composition of the present invention is heat cured. Therefore, nothing in Tsujimoto et al. suggests the equivalence between the hydrolyzable silane grafted elastomers disclosed therein and the polyorganosiloxanes of Applicants' claims.

Moreover, the combination of Karrer with Tsujimoto et al is unsupported. With reference to claim 1, there is no reason why one skilled in the art would select the HALS with pendant polysiloxane groups of Karrer to add to the composition of Tsujimoto et al. The purpose of the polysiloxane functionality of the HALS is to enhance the miscibility of the HALS in a polyorganosiloxane elastomer. See, specification, page 10 paragraph [0027].

First, there is nothing in Tsujimoto et al. to suggest that the polysiloxane functionality of the HALS would increase miscibility in the polymers of Tsujimoto et al. The continuous phase ethylene-alpha-olefin and propylene polymers of Tsujimoto et al. are disclosed as having grafted hydrolyzable silane groups. However, these polymers are not equivalent to the

polyorganosiloxanes of the invention, which do not comprise hydrolyzable silane groups grafted to polyolefin chains as disclosed in Tsujimoto et al. There is no basis for assuming the polysiloxane functionality of the HALS would confer any benefits in the Tsujimoto et al. composition in terms of improved miscibility.

Moreover, contrary to the use of the composition claimed herein, the Tsujimoto et al. composition is not disclosed as being useful for coating the inside of light bulbs. Therefore, miscibility of the HALS in the elastomer, and the haze resulting from lack of miscibility, is not a concern in Tsujimoto et al. Accordingly, there is no motivation for combining these references.

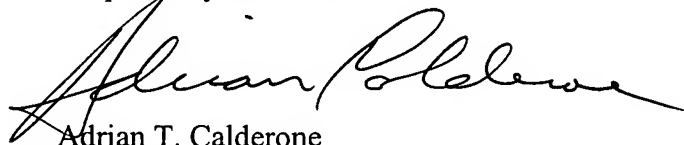
Independent claim 33 is submitted to be allowable for the same reasons as given above for claim 1.

The combination of references suggested in the Office Action is deficient from both a scientific and legal standpoint. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

For at least the reasons stated above, all of the pending claims are submitted to be allowable over the cited prior art. Favorable consideration and grant of an allowance are respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adrian T. Calderone", written over the typed name.

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